

## Wellesley Middle School PTO

### All School PTO Meeting

11/23/2020

#### **Attendees on Zoom:**

Sharon Gray, Dr. Ito, Elizabeth Kaplan, Melissa Mack, Melissa Martin, Moira McDade, Joelle Reidy

#### **President's Welcome - Joelle Reidy**

The PTO thanks the WMS community for their donations.

Unfortunately for the first time in decades there will be no Turkey Trot this year.

Lastly, this is a reminder to keep bringing in their saliva samples for COVID testing.

#### **Dr. Ito**

There were 3 positive COVID cases this week, this information was communicated out to families. The good news is that the cases were isolated and not a cluster.

Dr. Ito sends out a thank you to the school nurses who do a great job with contract tracing.

Some people want more info regarding positive cases, but the school needs to respect HIPAA (rules on medical privacy). The contract tracing identifies who needs to be contacted.

#### **Safety Training**

Safety training for active intruder is still happening - some was done 11/16 & 11/17 with teachers and students.

Training done on ALICE that orients students to places where they go regarding building was done

Staff verbally discussed rallying points. Drills will be done in Dec/Jan (where students will actually exit the building).

#### **Curriculum**

Went to all grade level teachers and worked with Nearpod app that allows convergence of different features into one app.

This professional development for teachers is a good way to keep remote learners engaged.

Lastly, Dr. Ito gave thanks that school has been open for 2 months and is still open.

#### **School Committee**

There were two members from the Wellesley School Committee who came to this WMS PTO meeting.

Melissa Martin - She is in her 4th year on SC & a parent (8th grader, 2 and WMS and remote learning college student).

She expressed thanks to Dr. Ito and administration for all of their work in opening and running the schools including the RLS.

She provided an update on the WMS Building project, which will cost \$12.8 million and requires a vote on 12/1.

The project will extend the life of WMS for 25 years and contains the following updates:
Renovating kitchen, which is very important as the WMS kitchen prepares food for WMS & all elementary schools.
Replacing HVAC systems in gyms & auditorium (it will also add AC to auditorium).
Replacing casework in 62 classrooms, renovating art room, repointing areas outside, updating retaining walls.
The project will be completed at the end of next summer.
Sharon Gray - She is in her 6th year on SC and has 1 child at WHS & one 8th grader.
Sharon provided insight into the challenges of budget planning for FY2022 below.
Select board reviews finances and sets increase, SC like other departments was given 2.5% increase.
That increase is extremely lean, SC reviewing how they are going to respond. There is lack of clarity as to
what the world will look like next school year. If there are additional expenses related to COVID will there be federal money? SC most concerned about level service, also concerned about enrollment. Down by about 300 students
this year. Many families went to private schools and home schools - more prevalent at elementary school level. Will those
students return next year is hard to plan. Need to work with the town and also advocate for students. There is a rainy day
fund - but town needs to decide what portion to use. The SC told Dr. Lussier to assume normal operations for a first pass
run at the budget & use a range of normal enrollment projections. They asked the district to show SC what 2.5% &
level service looks like, and to also include help for students who need help catching up.
If questions email <a href="mailto:School_Committee@wellesleys.org">School_Committee@wellesleys.org</a>